

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF MOUSE (*SITOMYS*
DECOLORUS) FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

By
FREDERICK W. TRUE,
Curator of the Department of Mammals.

Among some specimens of mammals recently collected by Mr. E. Wittkugel in Honduras for the National Museum, is a species of *Sitomys*, belonging to the subgenus *Rhipidomys* (= *Nyctomys* Saussure), which appears to be undescribed. Dr. J. A. Allen has already made mention of a specimen of this species,* which specimen he regarded as the young of *S. sumichrasti*. He has kindly sent it to me for examination. It is an imperfect skin of a youngish individual, collected at Santo Domingo, Tehuantepec, Mexico, by Dr. A. C. Buller. The tail is wanting. It appears to agree in every respect with the Honduras specimen in the National Museum, from which the following description is taken. I may say incidentally that we have in the museum the skin of a young *S. sumichrasti*, which shows the closest possible similarity to the adults of that species.

The following is a description of Wittkugel's Honduras specimen, No. 21092, from Rio de las Piedras, collected Dec. 11, 1890:

Sitomys (*Rhipidomys*) *decolorus*, sp. nov.

Size intermediate between *Mus musculus* and *M. decumanus*. Ears prominent, thin, nearly naked. Soles naked, except in the proximal fourth, the naked portion not granular, and with prominent pads. Tail clothed with longish hairs, growing more abundant toward its tip, where they conceal the scales and form a pencil.

Color above brownish-isabelline, more or less shaded with gray along the middle of the back. Flanks clearer. Under surfaces and lower part of cheeks pure white, not blending with the color of the sides. Feet like the back, but the hinder ones somewhat more dusky. Toes impure white. Ears sparsely clothed with rather long, chocolate-brown hairs externally, and similar, but somewhat lighter-colored, hairs internally. Hairs of the tail chocolate-brown, not lighter

* Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., III, 1890, 187.

Proceedings National Museum Vol. XVI—No. 963.

below than above. Whiskers black. Eye surrounded by a dark-brown ring.

*Dimensions of the body.**

Measurements.	21092. ♀ ad. Río de las Pie- dras, Honduras.		3104 ♀ juv a Santo Do- mingo, Mexico.	
	mm.		mm.	
Length of head and body.....	108.0		104.0	
Length of tail-vertebra.....	85.0		
Length of terminal pencil of tail.....	10.0		
Length of hind foot and claw.....	23.0		22.0	
Height of ear from lower margin of orifice.....	14.0		13.5	

a American Museum of Natural History.

The skull has strong supraorbital ridges, but presents no well-defined differences from that of *S. sumichrasti*.

This species is easily distinguished from *S. sumichrasti*, of which there are two specimens in the National collection—one, as already stated, a young individual, and the other an adult from Mirador, Mexico, collected by Dr. Sartorius. The latter was compared with the type-specimen of *S. sumichrasti* from the Geneva Museum, in 1890, by Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Merriam, and myself, and found to be identical.

From *S. sumichrasti*, the species herein described differs by its much paler and yellower coloration, its dusky ears and tail, and also by the comparative shortness of the tail.

I am unable to find any described species to which it can be considered as belonging. From the fact that one specimen comes from Mexico and the other from Honduras it would appear that it has a wide distribution in Central America.

I would remark in this connection that it seems probable to me that *S. salvini* (Tomes) is distinct from *S. sumichrasti*, although the two are united by Alston and Trouessart. Specimens of *S. salvini* from Guatemala and Honduras in the National collection agree with each other and differ from *S. sumichrasti*, from Mexico, in having a chocolate-brown tail and large, thin ears, clothed with hairs of the same color. The tarsus is also more or less dusky, and the ferruginous of the back is shaded with black by the intermingling of hairs of that color.

In *S. sumichrasti* the upper surfaces, together with the tail, ears, and tarsi, are nearly uniform dull ferruginous throughout.

*From the dry skin.